On page 8, line 20, change "Biologies Laboratories" to --Biology Laboratory-- and delete "(sic)".

On page 15, line 1, change "Examples" to --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--.

On page 22, delete line 1 and insert therefor --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING--.

On page 30, line 1, change "Patent Claims" to --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-16 without prejudice and enter the following claims:

a' cont.

--17. An isolated polynucleotide containing a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of

a) a polynucleotide which is at least 70% identical to a polynucleotide which encodes a polypeptide containing the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,

b) a polynucleotide which encodes a polypeptide which contains an amino acid sequence which is at least 70% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,

c) a polynucleotide which is complementary to the polynucleotides of a) or b) and

a' Cont.

d) a polynucleotide containing at least 15 successive bases of the polynucleotide sequence of a), b) or c).

18. The polynucleotide as claimed in claim 17 which is a replicable DNA.

19. The polynucleotide as claimed in claim 17 which is an RNA.

20. The polynucleotide as claimed in claim 18, which contains the nucleic acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1.

21. The polynucleotide sequence as claimed in claim 18, which encodes a polypeptide which contains the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2.

22. The replicable DNA as claimed in claim 18, which contains

(i) the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, or

(ii) at least one sequence which corresponds to the sequence (i) within the degeneration range of the genetic code, or

a' cont.

(iii) at least one sequence which hybridizes with the complementary sequence to sequence (i) or (ii) and optionally

(iv) functionally neutral sense mutations in (i).

23. A vector containing the polynucleotide as claimed in claim 17, deposited in E. coli DSM 13114.

24. Coryneform bacteria acting as host cells which contain a deletion or an insertion in the poxB gene.

25. A process for the production of an amino acid, comprising the following steps:

a) fermentation of a bacteria producing a desired L-amino acid bacteria, in which at least the poxB gene is attenuated,

b) accumulation of the desired L-amino acid in the medium or in the cells of the bacteria and

c) isolation of the L-amino acid.

26. The process according to claim 25 wherein the amino acid is L-lysine.

27. The process as claimed in claim 25, wherein bacteria are used in which further genes of the biosynthetic pathway of the desired L-amino acid are additionally amplified.

28. The process as claimed in claim 25, wherein bacteria are used in which the metabolic pathways which reduce the formation of the desired L-amino acid are at least partially suppressed.

29. The process as claimed in claim 25, wherein expression of a polynucleotide containing a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of

a) a polynucleotide which is at least 70% identical to a polynucleotide which encodes a polypeptide containing the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,

b) a polynucleotide which encodes a polypeptide which contains an amino acid sequence which is at least 70% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,

c) a polynucleotide which is complementary to the polynucleotides of a) or b), and

d) a polynucleotide containing at least 15 successive bases of the polynucleotide sequence of a), b) or c),

is reduced.

a' cont.

30. The process as claimed in claim 25, wherein the catalytic properties of a polypeptide containing a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of

a) a polynucleotide which is at least 70% identical to a polynucleotide which encodes a polypeptide containing the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,

b) a polynucleotide which encodes a polypeptide which contains an amino acid sequence which is at least 70% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,

c) a polynucleotide which is complementary to the polynucleotides of a) or b), and

d) a polynucleotide containing at least 15 successive bases of the polynucleotide sequence of a), b) or c),

are reduced.

31. The process as claimed in claim 25, wherein bacteria are used in which attenuation is achieved by using integration mutagenesis by means of the plasmid pCR2.1poxBint, shown in Figure 1 and deposited as DSM 13114, or one of the constituents thereof.

32. The process as claimed in claim 26, wherein L-lysine is produced by fermenting bacteria in which one or more genes